

UFMG hosts THE Latin America Universities Summit

For the first time, the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) will host THE Latin America Universities Summit, promoted by Times Higher Education (THE). The edition will take place in 2025, between the 8th and 10th of July, at the Pampulha Campus and will have the theme “Universities as repositories of reliable knowledge”. The event consists of lectures, panels, case studies and practical workshops and will take place in person in Brazil for the first time, as the meeting hosted by the University of São Paulo (USP) in 2021 was remote due to the coronavirus pandemic Covid-19. Professor Dawisson Lopes, director of the Institutional Data Governance Office at UFMG and president of the organizing committee of THE Latin America Universities Summit, estimates that around 250 formally constituted representatives of universities, called institutional delegates, will participate in the event, as well as authorities government agencies in the area of higher education. The professor explains that the event “is aimed primarily at Latin America, but not exclusively”. He also states, “In fact, this is an event that traditionally counts on the participation of extra-regional actors – thus, more specific participation from representatives of universities from other regions of the world, such as North America, Europe and Asia.”



Latin America Universities Summit

In partnership with



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Para-athletes from the UFMG Sports Training Center (CTE)

On September 13th, the President of the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Sandra Goulart Almeida, received, together with the vice president of the university, Professor Alessandro Fernandes Moreira, the para-athletes from the UFMG Sports Training Center (CTE) Ana Carolina Moura and Arthur Xavier Ribeiro. Both athletes represented Brazil at the Paris Paralympic Games in 2024. Ana Carolina was a gold medalist in para taekwondo (65kg category). The sport is an adaptation of Korean martial arts to enable the participation of athletes with upper limb disabilities. Arthur, in turn, was a bronze medalist in the 4x100m freestyle S14 relay, a category for athletes with intellectual disabilities. Professor Sandra Goulart de Almeida was proud of the athletes and the university's role in developing Paralympic sport. Furthermore, the President reinforces the UFMG Sports Training Center's mission of including young people with disabilities in sports. The director of the School of Physical Education, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, Professor Gustavo Côrtes, and the director of the CTE, Maicon Rodrigues, also recognized the investments made by UFMG so that the CTE could maintain its operation.



Photo: Vitória Brunini

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UFMG hosted the International Student Orientation Week (SOEI)

From September 18th to 20th, the Office of International Affairs at UFMG hosted the International Student Orientation Week (SOEI). The event welcomed approximately 89 students from over 20 countries, spanning 36 undergraduate and ten postgraduate programs. The orientation was designed for exchange students and included informational lectures and a university welcome. It also featured various cultural activities and dynamic events aimed at fostering cultural immersion.

and integrating international students with their Brazilian peers.



Photo: Comunicação DRI

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Group led by UFMG develops AI for accessible drug prescription

In partnership with the Federal University of São João del-Rey, the University of Porto (in Portugal), and the Eduardo Mondlane University (in Mozambique), the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) proposes a system for generating guidelines for medication prescription that uses Artificial Intelligence to facilitate the understanding of medical prescriptions. The project has investment from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges initiative. It aims to help low-educated patients from traditional communities, the elderly and people with visual or hearing impairments. The system would be capable of generating text and images in response to users' requests, adapting to their needs to facilitate understanding of prescriptions. In this way, the project aims to reduce risks and help patients understand and manage their health status in the best way possible.



Source: Grand Challenges Brasil

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UFMG and the University of Oxford promote the Brazilian Symposium on Controlled Human Infection

In August, UFMG and the University of Oxford held the first Brazilian Symposium on Controlled Human Infection. The event brought together global and Brazilian experts on the topic, aiming to share information about procedures and protocols for controlled human infection models, also known as human challenge studies. Dr Helton Santiago, a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Immunology at UFMG's Institute of Biological Sciences and a researcher at CTVacinas, explains that controlled human infection models deliberately infect individuals to accelerate the development of vaccines, medications, and solutions to public health issues. Although widely used in various countries, Brazil has never implemented these models. The CTVacinas team is seeking approval to use the methodology in tests involving the worm that causes hookworm disease, also known as 'amarelão'. "We intend to use this model with the parasite that causes amarelão later this year, as we want to test two vaccines being developed in partnership with Baylor University and George Washington University in the United States," Santiago stated. The researcher adds that using the model to study hookworms will enable the country to advance in using this methodology for developing vaccines against other diseases. He mentioned Vivax, a malaria vaccine developed by CTVacinas in partnership with the University of São Paulo (USP). "We plan to establish this model to test the vaccine for amarelão and, in the future, for a Brazilian malaria vaccine. Today, no malaria vaccine progresses to phase 3 human studies without undergoing controlled infection tests. Next year, we aim to test Vivax, the first national malaria vaccine to reach the clinical trial phase," this phase is definitely attracting the scientific community's attention.



Photo: Foca Lisboa

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UFMG VII Summer School on Brazilian Studies

From the 15th to the 26th of July, the Federal University of Minas Gerais promoted the event “Summer School on Brazilian Studies”, attended by more than 50 international students, from 15 countries and 28 institutions, and 20 Brazilian students from our university. The event consisted of lectures on Culture, Economics, Brazilian society, and Politics, among other topics of relevance. The participants also had the opportunity to learn Portuguese as an additional language and visit some tourist places like Ouro Preto and Inhotim. This year, the guest speaker was Ambassador Gisela Padovan, responsible for Latin America and the Caribbean. She explained the importance of the diplomatic relationship between Brazil and other countries in the region during her talk.



Photo: Comunicação DRI

CTVacinas - UFMG Vaccine Technology Center

The Vaccine Technology Center at UFMG, CTVacinas, is close to initiating the final stage in developing a vaccine against Mpox, including human trials. The significance of this technology has gained even more prominence following the statement from the WHO (World Health Organization) issuing that the disease constitutes a public health emergency of international concern due to the risk of global spread and a potential new pandemic. According to Dr Ricardo Gazzinelli, coordinator of CTVacinas and the Institute of Vaccine Science and Technology (INCTV), UFMG has been working on developing a vaccine against Mpox since 2022, having conducted many pre-clinical results showing the induction of neutralizing agents, cellular response, and robust protection against the disease," The vaccine has been listed as one of the priorities of the Virus Network, a committee of virology experts created by the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI) for the development of diagnostics, treatments, vaccines, and content production about emerging viruses in Brazil. "We are doing something that did not exist before: a scaling process. Producing this virus industrially is very difficult because it requires steps like ultracentrifugation in the lab to be purified, to remove contaminants, to eliminate impurities," explains Flávio Fonseca, a researcher associated with CTVacinas and also a professor at UFMG. The scholar clarifies that this ultracentrifugation process is not scalable and not transferable to industry, which makes this vaccine developed in Minas Gerais even more critical. Monkeypox was present in Brazil during the global outbreak in 2022. However, that variant, called clade 2, is less aggressive than the current one, clade 1B, which prompted the WHO's declaration. "It has a lethality that is 10 times higher than the virus that caused the disease, the global outbreak in 2022, and therefore it is drawing international attention," emphasizes Flávio Fonseca.



Source: CTVacinas

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UFMG holds 1st edition of the Brazil-China Summer School on Legal Studies (SSLS)

Between July 30th and August 3rd, 2024, the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) and the Office of International Affairs promoted the Brazil - China Summer School on Legal Studies. The event was held in partnership with the Chinese university Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) and received undergraduate and postgraduate Law students from both universities. Lectures and conferences were held with Brazilian and Chinese professors, and visits were made to the UFMG Law School and the city of Ouro Preto.



Photo: Comunicação DRI

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